

9/9/94

Meeting Log  
**Second National Conference on Preventing Childhood Lead (Pb) Poisoning**  
Alliance for Prevention of Childhood Lead Poisoning  
15-18 May 1994  
Sheraton Washington Conference Center  
2660 Woodley Rd., Washington, DC

CPSC Attendees:

Brian Lee, HSHE 301-504-0994 x1387  
Pary Davis, EPHF 301-504-0468 x1277  
Ken Giles, EXPA 301-504-0580 x1184  
Myra Karstadt, COAB 301-504-0213 x2162  
Ann Brown, COAB 301-504-0213

The theme of the conference was "Building a Lead-Safe Future". A common point included in many presentations was 'Environmental Justice'. Highlights of the conference are listed.

15 May

Key Developments workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Don Ryan (Alliance Exec. Dir.) covered Title X progress and mentioned topics that would be discussed by various speakers during the conference. Ryan noted that while the Lead Trust Fund bills to finance testing and cleanup would not pass in Congress, the language would be added onto a national health care package proposal.

Ken Byk (Forensic Analytics Lab) asked about the CPSC review of the lead in paint standard [investigation closed, see Federal Register 1 Dec 1993].

Joel Schwartz (EPA), presented recent epidemiological evidence that lead (Pb) poisoning impaired mental development. He reiterated that the 10 ug/dl blood lead level of concern was not a threshold for adverse effects.

16 May

Survey of the Landscape plenary. Attended by Brian Lee.

Bailus Walker (Alliance chair) mentioned the need for environmental justice.

Thomas Vernon (Natl Ctr. Lead-Safe Housing) stated that the Pb problem is beginning to yield due to regulatory successes.

Marcy Jackson (Illinois Pb Referral Network) related her experience as the mother of a Pb-poisoned child, which lead to establishing the network.

Don Ryan (Alliance) recommended that attendees learn from others by attending workshops that would cross their fields and disciplines.

Lynn Goldman (EPA) said that there is a need for information and that the information would empower consumers to act.

Making Prevention Programs Work plenary. Attended by Brian Lee.

Tom Schlenker (Salt L City-County Health Dept) dismissed the idea that Western homes had no leaded paint. He showed a photo of an old can of Pioneer paint paste which was 85% Pb carbonate by weight.

Challenge Ahead plenary. Attended by Brian Lee.

David Satcher (CDCP) said CDCP will be clarifying "universal screening" for children. He described some of the historical involvement of United Church of Christ groups with environmental justice cases. He also said that fire prevention is also a significant concern.

Ann Brown (CPSC) divided CPSC's Pb activities into those related to residential paint and other consumer products. The Commission's activities in the regulation of Pb levels in paint were outlined. Brown noted that Pb problems could be exacerbated by do-it-yourself work. CPSC was working with EPA to ensure testing methods by consumers were reliable. Pb pigments were also of recent concern, as noted in the recent recalls of crayons and Barney bags.

Joel Packer (Natl Education Assoc) recalled that under the objectives of Health Children 2000, children will come to school ready to learn. If children are Pb-poisoned, they will have learning difficulties.

Schools and Day Care workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Joel Packer (NEA) stated that the average cost for a Pb inspection of a school was \$1000, home care \$250, and day care \$400.

Bruce Bomier (Environmental Assessment Institute) pointed out that schools tend to have a "tight" [low fresh air exchange rate] indoor air environment. The wide range of activities, involving art/crafts, lab chemicals, challenge the indoor environmental quality.

Products, especially art products should not be leaded. Bomier noted CPSC has been working to remove Pb from children's products. He also mentioned that CPSC was very helpful during the development of an approach toward a Pb risk assessment of schools in Hawaii.

Schools undertake a remodeling or construction project approximately every 3 years. Beyond precautions for workers, school staff, and students, rules for handling the debris are needed.

A model curriculum for educators concerning Pb and other hazards is available.

James Hayes (North Carolina Dept. Env. Health & Natural Resources) stated that the state regulations originally prohibited leaded paint on walls, floors, and toys in schools and day cares. It did not address friction surfaces, such as doors, windows, or steps.

Problems faced include testing and verification of paint, the high incidence of day cares with leaded paint, cost of testing, and closure of day cares and schools could disproportionately affect lower income areas.

Solutions included visual inspection of paint twice/year, followup action if inspection found non-intact paint, and changing of regulation to requiring the facility to be "free of peeling, flaking, or chalking paint."

Their risk assessment is a visual inspection, determination of age or type of paint, chemical spot testing [rhodizonate swab] and followup of positives by XRF or atomic absorption spectrophotometry. He finds that the false negatives of the test kits are low and feels they offer good confidence and usefulness.

Miriam Davis (Office Technology Assessment) said OTA is conducting a study of risks to children in schools. The study covers several risks, including Pb. They collected recent reports that cumulative exposure up to age 7 years is associated with IQ deficits.

Raising Awareness Through Public Education workshop. Attended by Pary Davis.

Speakers: moderator: Niki Keiser, CDC

Janet Phoenix, National Safety Council

Kim Chastain, National Safety Council

Bonnie Maurras, Leadnology Today, Inc.

Barbara Conrad, Maryland Department of the Environment

Public service campaign to raise public awareness

promote 800#: 1-800-LEADFYI

call and leave name and address

will send info w/in 2 weeks

Clearinghouse 1-800-424-LEAD

will speak to a live body

will give technical info as well as general

PSA (Public Service Announcements)

- prompt people to call hotline for info

- direct correlation between # of calls (to hotline) to announcements, more announcements-more calls to hotline

Radio PSAs

- trying to reach everyone

- RAP on lead to explain to people what they can do

- try to target younger audience, something they can relate to

Buses

- lower income people ride

- people can see right away, no reading of brochure

PSAs will be in Spanish and English

Want communities to take their own initiative to get the message out, get parents as well as other community members involved

Building on Existing Programs workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

David Livingston (Baltimore Jobs in Energy Project) emphasized that instead of having several separate industries to deal with individual problems, there should be a housing weatherization industry. Maintenance of leaded paint involves attention to moisture, impact, and abrasion.

Community groups are the best choice, not because of Sec.III or environmental justice, but because they are accepted in their own community and they will do the best jobs for their own community. Money should be given directly to the community, not to outside services for the community. This is difficult for large, governmental agencies to grasp.

Three trades are needed to provide safe housing: building, marketing, and health/education/outreach.

Benefits of Early Intervention workshop. Attended by Pary Davis.

Speakers:

Moderator- John Rosen, Montefiore Medical Center

Beverly Gammage, Maryland Department of the Environment

Renate Kimbrough, Institute for Evaluating Health Risks

Helen Krause, Rock County Health Department (Wisc)

Marie Miller, NY state Department of Public Health

Joel Schwartz, Environmental Protection Agency

Cleaning is the best intervention-reduce dust

Need to wet mop, rent HEPA if can

Make sure to clean window sills

Wet mop everyday, clean entire house weekly

Keep kids fingernails clipped short, and hands washed regularly

Help for low economic homes: general counseling on correct leaning techniques, nutrition, and child care/rearing

Major issue: Is the knowledge of better house cleaning the real cause for decrease in blood lead levels? OR

Partial error in evaluations in labs, how much decrease is do to lab error v. education? Effectiveness???

CPSC poster sessions. Lunch session attended by Ken Giles. Evening session attended by Brian Lee.

The exhibit provided examples of various Pb-containing products, including armadillos from Mexico, crayons from China, stacking dolls from Russia, and a diagram of Barney bags. The toys attracted much attention. About 300 copies of each CPSC news release concerning these products were distributed. Copies were also distributed at the International Conference which followed this National Conference. 80 names were added to the mailing list for CPSC's Safety News.

17 May

Making Private Housing Lead-Safe plenary. Attended by Brian Lee.

Larry Dale (Fannie Mae) spoke about consumer information that should be provided during purchase of a home. Lessons learned in making public housing Pb-safe can be applied to private housing.

Nick Farr (Natl Ctr Lead-Safe Housing) emphasized that maintenance and costs of abatements must be a a level that owners can afford. Pb measurements

of paint, dust, and soil will be studied by Univ. Cincinnati on 5000 units, after 1, 6, and 12 mo after abatement. Various abatement methods will be examined.

Lisa Kerhner (Maryland Lead Poisoning Commission) announced that the Commission was formed in Dec. 1992 and consists of property owners, health advocates, investment owner advocates, dean of the Univ. MD School of Law, paint manufacturers, and others.

Regulations passed by MD legislature provide incentives for owners to make homes Pb safe. The incentives are protection from tort claims and liability insurance. There are recommendations for in-place management of leaded paint. Owners can choose to do Pb dust testing or to perform abatement procedures.

Cushing Dolbeare (Natl Low-Income Housing Coalition) spoke about the Financing Task group and the need for affordable safe housing.

Pierre Erville (Alliance) presented a framework concept document for safe housing by the Alliance.

Keynote Speaker Henry Cisneros (Sec., HUD) reviewed the major areas where HUD was active in providing safe housing. Environmental justice entered into part of his presentation.

Risk Assessment workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Dave Jacobs (Natl Ctr Lead-Safe Housing) said covered soil with high Pb levels is not a lead hazard.

Jim Keck (Leadtec) stated a typical risk assessment cost is \$300-400, most of which is testing. Lab testing is essential; visual inspection alone is insufficient. The apprenticeship requirement to become a certified risk assessor was removed from the ASTM draft.

Pat Connor (Connor Environmental Services) achieved more success in gaining access to rental homes by first sending a notice developed in conjunction with the owner. The most knowledgeable person should fill out the survey questionnaire. Get as much information ahead of time so that less time will be wasted during the visit.

Recommendations should be communicated to the appropriate persons. Followup actions should be incorporated into future plans.

HUD Guidelines workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Richard Baker was formerly with Dewberry & Davis and is now with Ramsey Schilling.

Bruce Buxton (Battelle) measured dust levels in EPA contracted abatement projects. The study will compare encapsulation and enclosure against removal methods. Dust levels were higher in the abated units. However, all dust levels were less than the HUD interim guideline clearance levels.

Steve Weitz (HUD) said that the preclearance draft of the Pb paint abatement guidelines is available for \$50. Ch. 13 Cleanup no longer requires trisodium phosphate and allows the use of other cleaning agents.

An early draft of the Midwest Research Institute report comparing Pb detection methods was already sent to HUD but will not appear in the HUD preclearance draft. It will affect the final draft. A revised report is due to HUD at the end of June.

18 May

Environmental Justice workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Angela Chung wrote her senior honors thesis at Stanford Univ. on Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) and Pb poisoning. APA = 2.9% US population in 1990. The stereotype of the successful and assimilated APA undermines claims of discrimination and negates the existence of APAs in poor economic conditions. Cultural barriers faced were the lack of a native word for Pb, beliefs that blood was irreplaceable, use of shamans and herbologists, folk remedies containing Pb (e.g., pelua for fevers by Hmong), imported goods (soldered seams, crayons). Standard nutritional recommendations for dairy and eggs may not be culturally appropriate. Tofu, pork, and leafy vegetables are more appropriate.

Andrew McBride (Stamford, CT Dir. Health) declared \$20-60M are spent by EPA on Pb and much is wasted. He outlined major problems with the latest CDCP recommendations concerning Pb poisoning prevention.

A 0.06% level of defining Pb-based paint is preferred; 0.5% has no health effects basis. Stamford has a Pb in paint trigger level of 0.06% by weight, but that did not result in any homes closed even though the level is enforced. He has a case of a >70 ug/dl Pb poisoned child due to eating and chewing of paint that was >0.06% but <0.5% Pb.

XRF is expensive and unreliable. Stamford uses trained inspectors to find deteriorating paint.

Blood Pb levels are still being used to trigger action. The action should be proactive.

Much of the pediatric health care community is trivializing a 20 ug/dl blood lead action level and the loss of a few IQ points.

Sue Binder (CDCP) responded that McBride's divisiveness is not needed and that this should instead be a time to come together for action. Also, the 0.5% Pb-based paint definition and use of XRF are HUD's recommendations, not CDCP's. McBride countered that she is sweeping the problems aside as divisiveness and that CDCP is supporting the HUD recommendations.

Luis Sepulveda (West Dallas Coalition Environmental Justice, received Alliance's Advocacy award) told about his community's problem with a battery manufacturer and the major contamination with Pb ore, tailings, smelting wastes, and dust. Pb poisonings were frequent. The Hispanic community was unable to receive attention from the local, state, or EPA agencies. He claims he was illegally investigated by EPA.

Only after the CPSC news release about Pb in crayons did the local community become concerned about Pb. This allowed the Coalition to gain sufficient local support to focus on the problems in the community.

A person from EPA/Env Justice office (not Knox) commented that instead of fighting the system, he should learn the system, and work through it.

Fighting Skeptics with Factual Ammunition workshop. Attended by Pary Davis.

Speakers:

Moderator- Ellen Silbergeld, University of Maryland and Environmental Defense Fund

Paul Mushak, PB Associates, Durham, NC

Herbert Needleman, University of Pittsburgh

Dave Jacobs, National Center for Lead-Safe Housing

Stephanie Pollack, Conservation Law Foundation

Use media as major means to help communicate efforts

- newspapers

- radio

- PSAs

- transportation - billboards on buses

All these can help to educate the public

- need to work on educating the lower socioeconomic classes

these are the hardest to reach and need it the most

Kids need to be tested regularly: greatly opposed

- controversial, lab error v. actual decrease in levels

- what's the effectiveness?

- need to make lead industry accountable for findings

- screening the only way to keep tabs on decrease/increase in blood lead levels

Risk Communication workshop. Attended by Brian Lee.

Max Lum (ATSDR) pointed out the top 5 substances at Superfund hazardous waste sites, in order, were Pb, As, Hg, vinyl chloride, and benzene.

A common problem in risk communication is that it should be 2-way, and client-centered.

Lessons learned: Be honest, define issue accurately, understand health risk communication, improve planning, practice, improve communications between stakeholders.

Crafting the message depends on the differential knowledge of the audience, vested interests, value differences, and mistrust of experts.

Perception of risk = hazard + outrage. Factor pairs with that increasing risk perception on right: voluntary involuntary; natural man-made; familiar exotic; chronic catastrophic; visible invisible benefits; controlled by individuals others; fair unfair.

Ask for booklet "Improving Risk Communications". Ctr. for Environmental Contamination, Rutgers Univ./Cook College, PO Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231. 908-932-8795, -7815 fax.

Bob Knox (EPA/Environ. Justice) defined environmental justice by the objective that the poor should not bear a disproportionate risk burden.

Daryl Spence (Allegheny Co., MD) told about a bridge deleading case. Bridge Pb had accidentally contaminated a neighborhood. Quick action and good community relations and communications resulted in success.

Grassroots Organizing workshop. Attended by Pary Davis.

Speakers:

Moderator Linda Kite, Lead Poisoning Organizing Project (Los Angeles)

Lois Gibbs, Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

Jonathan Bader, Council on Developmental Disabilities Grant Recipient

Flora Burkey, Action for a Better Community

Eric Antebi, Green Corps (San Antonio)

Need to get general public more involved in making homes lead-free

-to do this:

use the media more

education very important, especially lower economical people-tend to be the hardest to reach

need to make laws more strict in order to make people comply with

rules

Need to get communities involved - rallies to increase awareness, talk shows, radio programs, ads in public places. Make lead awareness visible.